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(b) whether he has invited the opinions of the Provincial Bank as well as of the Provincial Co-operative Union and other leading non-official bodies in the Presidency on the matter?

A.—(a) No written representations were received.

(b) The question of relaxation of official control and transference of more responsibility to non-official agency was discussed with the Registrar at a Conference held in 1922 whereat representatives of 24 district banks and 11 local supervising unions were present. The subject was also considered by the Provincial Conference in 1922.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to the answer to (a), will the hon. the Minister be pleased to give us the names of the 'outsiders' who gave that opinion regarding non-officialization?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I have kept no note of the names. My general impression is that these outsiders were people unconnected with the actual working of the co-operative societies."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether these strangers or outsiders are elected representatives of any particular bodies entitled to be called non-co-operators or whether they are mere casual visitors?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" As I have said already, I kept no note of the names."

Savings effected by retrenchment.

* 327 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the amount of the savings effected by retrenchments in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee?

A.—The retrenchments effected up to 11th September 1924 are indicated in the statement appended to G.O. No. 666, Finance, dated 11th September 1924, which was placed on the Council table. Since then, orders have been issued abolishing five temporary weaving parties and three temporary clerks working in the Textile Section. The post of Industrial Chemist and of a clerk and a peon working under him have also been directed to be abolished. The savings as a result of these orders will amount roughly to Rs. 24,000 per annum.

Appointment of Honorary Assistant Registrars.

* 328 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the resolution of the recent Co-operative Conference held in Madras (from the 21st to 23rd December 1924) suggesting to the Government the discontinuance of the appointment of Honorary Assistant Registrars;

(b) the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if no action is to be taken, why not?

A.—(a) Yes.
(b) The question is under consideration.
(c) Does not arise.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask when the Government will be in a position to come to a conclusion in the matter referred to in (b) of the question ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I do not think that I can make a prophecy ; but I can promise that I will expedite the matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know what steps the hon. Minister is taking to arrive at a conclusion ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" At present we are receiving information from two opposite sources, one side pressing abolition of honorary assistant registrars and another saying that their continuance is absolutely necessary."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I trust the hon. the Minister will not be carried by merely ' the volume of opinions.' "

Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Society for the Kallars.

* 329 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : With reference to question No. 1431 answered at the meeting of the 5th December 1924, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government appointed the gentleman to be the Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Society for the Kallars without making any inquiries whatever about his fitness or otherwise for the post and if the Government have no information whether they will call for it ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 1149 asked on the 12th November 1924. No appointments of honorary assistant registrars are made without inquiry.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether the particular gentleman is an active member in the co-operative department ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—' He was and is."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I wish to know whether he is at present ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I think he is."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know how many societies have been started by him ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" He was only appointed recently."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Labour.

Coolies employed in the Nilgiris district.

330 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of estates and of coolies employed therein in the Nilgiris ;